

Flintshire County Council.



REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

ON THE

HEALTH CONDITIONS

WHICH PREVAILED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE

COUNTY OF FLINT

DURING THE YEAR

1944.

4319



COUNTY OF FLINT.

The Chairman and Members
of the County Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the County of Flint in its relation to the calendar year ended 31st December, 1944.

In so doing I wish to record my high appreciation of the assistance received from you as a Council, from your Administrative Officers, and from my Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. ROBERTS,

County Medical Officer.

County Health Offices,

Mold, September, 1945.

ADMINISTRATION.

A.—DEPARTMENTAL STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health : Aneurin Evan Roberts, M.B., B.S. (Lond.).

Assistant Medical Officers : A. E. Gwladys Rowlands, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; V. K. Drennan, M.B., Ch.B. (Liverp.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.) (on Active Service); T. Wynne Brindle, M.B., Ch.B. (Temporary); W. H. Parkinson, M.D., D.P.H. (Temporary) since 1/6/43; Betty J. McConnell, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. (Temporary) since 14/9/43.

School Dental Surgeons : Peter Lunt, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.); Miss N. G. Woodward, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin.), W. B. Glynn Jones, L.D.S. (Began 22/1/45).

Supervisor of Midwives : Mrs. Frances M. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., R.San.Inst.Cert.

Matron of Maternity Home : Miss Elizabeth Waring, S.C.M.

Matron-Supt. of Mental Deficiency Institution :

Miss A. E. Fletcher, S.R.N., C.R.M.P.A., F.B.C.N.

District Health Visitors acting jointly as Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Buckly—Miss L. M. Eyes, T.N., S.C.M.

S.C.M.

Maelor—Mrs. M. P. Thomas, S.R.N.

Caergwrle—Mrs. Janet Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., Trnd. Fev. & Tb. H.V. & S.C.M., H.V.Cert., R.F.N., Tb. Cert. S.N. Cert.

Caerwys—Mrs. M. Edwards, S.R.N. Mold—Mrs. M. Ll. Taylor, S.R.N.

Con. Quay—Mrs. Hampson, S.R.N., Northop—Miss A. Molloy, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert., Tb. Cert., Ep. S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Diploma.

Prestatyn—Miss M. E. Roberts, S.R.N.,

Flint—Mrs. M. M. Nield, S.R.N.,

S.C.M.

S.C.M., Tb. Cert., H.V.Cert.

Rhyl—Mrs. A. M. Bailey, S.R.N.,

Hawarden—Miss E. Jones, S.C.M.,

S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (with temporary

H.V. and San. Cert.

Assistant Nurse Sheppard, since

Holywell—Miss L. Reynolds, S.R.N., 9/11/42).

Infant Life Protection Visitors : The above-named Health Visitors and School Nurses, and the Supervisor of Midwives.

County Tuberculosis Visitors : Miss D. V. Gray, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., M.S.R. and Miss Gwenneth Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

County Domiciliary Midwives : (Queensferry) Mrs. E. Barker; (Flint) Mrs. D. E. Williams; (Buckley) Mrs. A. M. Saunders; (Connah's Quay) Nurse J. E. Bennett; (Saltney) Mrs. M. E. Gibson; (Relief) Mrs. F. J. Coux (since 14/8/44).

Chief Clerk : William Davies, A.R.I.P.H.H. (Also Chief Clerk School Medical Department).

Senior Clerks : William Ithel Roberts (County Health); Arthur Whitley (School Medical—In H. M. Forces).

B.—HEADQUARTERS.

County Health Offices, County Buildings, Mold.

Telephone : 106 Mold.

C.—ASSOCIATED OFFICERS.

Clerk to the County Council : Mr. J. Harvey Davies, C.B.E. (Retired). Mr. W. Hugh Jones, County Offices, Mold (since 7/3/45).

County Surveyor and Architect : Mr. R. G. Whitley, A.M.I.C.E., L.R.I.B.A., &c., County Buildings, Mold. Deputy : Mr. W. Griffiths, L.R.I.B.A.

Supervising Officer under the Food and Drugs Act, &c. :

Mr. A. E. Lindsay (Chief Constable), Police Headquarters, Mold.

County Accountant : Mr. R. J. Jones, County Finance Offices, Mold.

Public Assistance Officer : Mr. Isaac Hughes, Public Assistance Offices, Holywell.

Agricultural Organiser : Mr. W. E. Lloyd, M.Sc., County Education Offices, Mold.

Physical Training Organisers : Mr. Bertram W. Clarke ; Miss Sarah Storey-Jones.

School Meals Organiser : Mrs. M. Hugh Edwards.

D.—PART-TIME OFFICERS.

(Directly Employed).

Obstetric Consultant (Honorary) to the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home : Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley.

Puerperal Fever and Obstetric, &c., Specialist (Fee-paid) : Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley.

Ophthalmic Consultants (Fee-paid) : Mr. E. F. Wilson, Chester, and Mr. Shuttleworth, Colwyn Bay.

Public Assistance (Institutional) Medical Officers (Salaried) : (Holywell) Dr. A. O. Jones ; (St. Asaph) Dr. A. H. Holmes.

Public Vaccinators (Fee-paid), also Public Assistance Medical Officers :

Drs. Herford, Buckley ; Wm. A. Hennessey, Marford ; J. G. Ll. Jones, Hawarden ; R. R. Dalling, Caergwrle ; I. P. Nelis, Mold ; O. W. Bate-man, Flint ; Jones and Morris, Holywell ; J. Brown, Ffynnongroew ; H. S. Bell, Prestatyn ; E. O. Lakey, Rhyl ; A. H. Holmes, St. Asaph ; W. M. Casper, Overton ; R. B. McColl, Hanmer.

Health Officers for the various Sanitary Districts.—1944.

District.	Medical Officer. *	Sanitary Inspector. †
Buckley Urban	Dr. D. Fraser, Post Office House, Brunswick Road, Buckley	Mr. F. Bannister Jones, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B., M. & F. Cert., Council Chambers, Buckley.
Connah's Quay Urban	Dr. H. H. Montgomery, Dee View, Church Street, Connah's Quay	Mr. Henry Jones, A.R.S.I., Cert. S.I.E.J.B., Council Offices, Connah's Quay.
Flint Municipal Borough	Dr. W. A. F. Twemlow, Ivy Bank, Flint	Mr. W. J. Avery, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., S.I.E.J.B. (In H.M. Forces); Mr. G. Clarke, M.M.C.C.E., Town Hall, Flint.
Holywell Urban	Dr. C. E. Morris, Bodowen, Holywell	Mr. E. J. Rogers, U.D.C. Offices, Holywell.
Mold Urban	Dr. I. Philippine Nelis, The Manse, Mold	Mr. Griffith Evans, A.R.S.I., C.L.U.S.I., M. & F. Cert., Town Hall Mold.
Prestatyn Urban	Dr. J. Tudor Griffiths, Leaton, Prestatyn	Mr. L. Howard Williams, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Prestatyn.
Rhyl Urban	Dr. E. Hughes Jones, Council Offices, Rhyl	Mr. E. L. Ll. Jones, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., Council Offices, Rhyl.
Hawarden Rural	Dr. J. Llewellyn-Jones, Hafod, Station Road, Hawarden	Mr. M. Emlyn Thomas, C.S.I.B., C.R.S.I., (M. and F.), Council Offices, Hawarden (No. 1 District); Mr. Watkin Williams, C.S.I.B., C.R.S.I., (M. and F.), Hawarden Road, Abermorddu (No. 2 District); Mr. R. D. Jones, C.R.S.I., M.I.M.C.E., Bryn Awelon, Mold.
Holywell Rural	Dr. I. P. Nelis, The Manse, Mold	Mr. A. O. Griffiths, C.R.S.I. and C.R.S.I. (M. and F.), Gwynedd, Rose Lane, Mynydd Isa, Mold; Mr. D. O. M. Jones, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., R.D.C. Offices, Holywell.
Overton Rural	Dr. W. M. Casper, Overton Hall, Ellesmere	Mr. R. L. Higgins, S.I.E.J.B., Willow Street, Overton.
St. Asaph Rural	Dr. A. H. Holmes, Angorfa, St. Asaph	Mr. E. O. Evans, F.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Hafod Elwy, St. Asaph

* Part time.

† Full time.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY.

1. AREA.

The area of the County—comprising the land and the inland water while disregarding tidal water and foreshore—is 255.7 square miles, or 163,707 statutory acres, that of its separate geographical divisions being respectively: Main Division, 133,308 acres; the Maelor Hundred, 29,749 acres; the Civil Parish of Marford and Hosely, 650 acres.

2. POPULATION.

The population of the County, estimated as at mid-year, 1944, was 127,260.

3. FINANCIAL.

The product of a penny rate, computed in respect of the year 1945/46, is £3,000. The rateable value of the County as at the 31st March, 1945, was £761,532.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is no important change to record under this head.

5. BIRTHS.

The births registered as pertaining to the County in respect of the year under review numbered 2,507, the total being made up as follows:—

Description.	Live.	Still.	Total.
Legitimate	... 2,255	... 59	... 2,314
Illegitimate	... 186	... 7	... 193
Totals	... 2,441	... 66	... 2,507

6. DEATHS.

ALL CAUSES—The deaths of 1,562 persons were recorded by the Registrar General as pertaining to the County in respect of the year under review. Of such deaths 833 were of male and 729 of female persons.

PUERPERAL CAUSES—Flintshire women who died during the year from causes associated with pregnancy or parturition numbered 4, but of these not one was recorded as due to puerperal and/or post-abortive sepsis. The maternal death rate was accordingly 1.6 per 1,000 total (i.e., live and still) births.

INFANTILE—Liveborn infants who died prior to their attaining the age of twelve months numbered 108, giving a rate of 44.2 per thousand live births. The death rate for illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births was 64.5.

HEART DISEASE—For many years this has headed the list of death causes in Flintshire, no fewer than 380 deaths being recorded as a result thereof in respect of the year under review (males, 212; females 168).

CANCER—Recorded as directly due to this disease there were 240 deaths of Flintshire persons, 124 of whom were males and 116 females.

TUBERCULOSIS—59 persons died as a result of this disease, 50 from its pulmonary form and 9 from other forms. The disease is specially dealt with in another Section of this Report.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER—2 deaths were registered as directly due to this disease during 1944, one fewer than was recorded in respect of the preceding year.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES—134 persons died as the result of non-tubercular respiratory diseases—67 from Bronchitis, 43 from Pneumonia and 24 from other (respiratory) conditions.

DIPHTHERIA—10 persons died as a result of this disease—3 aged between one and five years, 6 aged between five and fifteen, and 1 at the age of over 65 years.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS—13 deaths were registered during the year under this head—four fewer than in the preceding year.

UNUSUAL CAUSES—2 deaths were recorded as having occurred in consequence of acute encephalitis lethargica—1 more than during 1943.

7. OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

As I have said in previous reports, many Flintshire men are engaged in occupations regarded as having a prejudicial effect on health. The incidence of sickness and invalidity resultant thereon, however, is very low, and there is every reason to believe that the officers of our local authorities and of our quarries and other centres of employment are very careful and conscientious in their observance of all the necessary precautions.

Table 1.
AREA AND POPULATION.

District.			Area in Statute Acres (Land & Inland Water)	Population.	
				By Census.	Estimated Mid-year
				1931	1944
Urban—					
Buckley	...	...	2646	7167	6895
Connah's Quay	...	...	4214	5982	6420
Flint (M.B.)	...	...	6243	11516	11750
Holywell	...	...	2532	5599	7286
Mold	...	...	1164	5280	5700
Prestatyn	...	...	3219	5781	8089
Rhyl	...	...	1700	13489	18370
Rural—					
Hawarden	...	...	31576	26563	29760
Holywell	...	...	58515	20211	20920
Overton	...	...	29749	4761	4599
St. Asaph	...	...	22149	6500	7471
Total Urban	...	...	21718	54814	64510
Total Rural	...	...	141989	58035	62750
Whole County	...	...	163707	112849	127260

Table 2.
DEATHS—GENERAL.
Summary of Causes.

Cause of Death.	1943		1944		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	3	1	1	2	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	2	5	
Diphtheria ...	8	6	4	10	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	62	29	21	50	
Tuberculosis—other forms ...	12	2	7	9	
Syphilitic diseases ...	4	2	1	3	
Influenza ...	21	8	7	15	
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis and Polio-enceph. (acute) ...	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis—acute Inf. ...	1	1	1	2	
Cancer—Malignant Disease ...	223	124	116	240	
Diabetes ...	15	4	13	17	
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	179	98	112	210	
Heart Disease ...	362	212	168	380	
Other Diseases of the circulatory system ...	45	23	34	57	
Bronchitis ...	74	44	23	67	
Pneumonia ...	90	24	19	43	
Other respiratory diseases ...	13	15	9	24	
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	24	13	3	16	
Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	7	5	3	8	
Appendicitis ...	11	1	4	5	
Other Digestive diseases ...	38	20	18	38	
Nephritis ...	40	29	15	44	
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis ...	3	—	—	—	
Other maternal causes ...	7	—	4	4	
Premature birth ...	32	11	15	26	
Cong. Malf'n, Birth Injuries, &c. ...	33	19	16	35	
Suicide ...	5	3	1	4	
Road traffic accidents ...	17	10	3	13	
Other violent causes ...	37	21	12	33	
All other causes ...	184	105	97	202	
Totals ...	1553	833	729	1562	

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. OFFICERS.

The names of the Officers engaged in the various public health services of Flintshire are given in the early pages of this Report.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Continued use was made during the year of all those facilities which have been previously described. In particular the services rendered by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, in connection with the bacteriological examination of water samples, etc., have been invaluable, and are greatly appreciated by all the Local Sanitary Authorities.

The establishment of a Pathological Laboratory at one of the hospitals in the western portion of the County would prove of the highest value both to patients and to general medical practitioners.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There were 14 privately owned Motor Ambulances in Flintshire in 1944. They were stationed at Ffynnongroew, Flint, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Sealand and Shotton.

For Civil Defence purposes there are 18 full-time Ambulances in the County.

4. DOMICILIARY NURSING.

The various District Nursing Associations provide services for the general nursing of the sick in their homes, and many of these also provide midwifery services in their areas. Practically all these Associations are affiliated to the Flintshire County Nursing Association.

In addition six midwives are employed by the County Council in a whole-time capacity as "District Midwives."

Some of the District Nursing Associations are finding difficulty in implementing the provisions of the Rushcliffe Report, in spite of grants from the Exchequer, and some re-organisation of districts will undoubtedly have to be brought about. This can only be achieved by the amalgamation of districts and the provision of adequate transport facilities for the nurse. Eventually, when the National Health Service comes into being, the domiciliary nursing services will be entirely under the control of the Local Authority.

5. CENTRES AND CLINICS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

ANTE-NATAL—The following is a list of the Ante-Natal Centres which operated in the area during the year under review:—

Bagillt—Tabernacle C. M. Chapel Schoolrooms. First and third Thursdays of each month. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. First and third Mondays. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms. First and third Tuesdays. 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. First and third Thursdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Second and fourth Thursdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. First and third Mondays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Prestatyn—Presbyterian Church Hall. First and third Fridays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Prestatyn—Chatsworth House. First and third Thursdays. 2 to 4 p.m. (Mainly for "evacuee" patients).

Rhyl—The Clinic, Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Second and Fourth Wednesdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saltney—The Clinic, Cinder Lane. First and third Mondays. 2 to 4-30 p.m.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Tuesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

DENTAL—Two portable dental clinics, each in the charge of a fully qualified dental surgeon, operated throughout the year in the interests of the children attending the primary, secondary and grammar schools, and I am pleased to be able to report that a third is now in operation following the appointment of an additional school dentist (Mr. W. B. Glynn Jones, L.D.S.) on the 22nd January, 1945.

Three female dental attendants have also been appointed (and have begun duty) since the presentation of my last report.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Education Act, 1944, a further increase in the staff of the Dental Service will be necessary. This increased staff, when operating in the properly equipped Clinics planned by the Authority prior to the war, should be able to provide facilities for the dental treatment of expectant mothers, a scheme for which had been approved by the Authority some years ago but which could not be brought into operation on account of the shortage of staff.

INFANT WELFARE—The following is a list of the Infant Welfare Centres which, conducted by officers of the County Council with the efficient and generous assistance of local voluntary workers, operate in Flintshire in the interests of children of pre-school age:—

- Bagillt—Tabernacle C. M. Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Thursday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Thursdays of each month.
- Broughton—The Institute. Every Wednesday. 2 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Wednesdays of each month.
- Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. Every Monday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Mondays.
- Caergwrle—Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Tuesday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.—Medical Officer first and third Tuesdays.
- Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Monday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Mondays.
- Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Thursday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Thursdays.
- Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Wednesdays.
- Mostyn—Robert Davies' Memorial Hall. Fridays. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Fridays.
- Prestatyn—Presbyterian Church Hall. Every Friday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Fridays.
- Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Every Wednesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Wednesdays.
- Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday. 2 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends second and fourth Fridays.
- Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Tuesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer at every opening.

MINOR AILMENTS—Established by the County Council's Education Committee for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, eight Clinics operated in Flintshire throughout the year under review, as follows :

- Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. Every Tuesday. 2 to 4-30 p.m.
- Caergwrle—Wesleyan Chapel Schoolrooms: Every Tuesday. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends first and third Tuesdays of month.
- Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Tuesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Every Monday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Monday and Thursday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

NOSE AND THROAT—The treatment of children of school and pre-school age suffering from chronic tonsillitis and/or adenoids is carried out at the Hospitals of Chester (Royal Infirmary), Ellesmere, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Rhyl (both the Royal Alexandra and the Prince Edward Memorial), and Wrexham (Wrexham and East Denbighshire) under arrangements made

by the Authority with the respective Boards of Management. Such treatment is at the maximum cost of £1 only, or at reduced cost, or wholly free, to the parents, according to their capacity to pay, the Education Committee paying the Hospital charges in full up to £2/9/6 per case.

ORTHOPAEDIC—The following are the three Clinics at which the treatment of crippling conditions was available to Flintshire children of both school and pre-school age throughout the year reviewed :—

Holwell—Out-patient Department, Cottage Hospital. Second and fourth Friday mornings of each calendar month. Orthopaedic Nurse attends every opening. Surgeon attends every four months.

Rhyl—Clinic Rooms, Old Emmanuel School. Second and fourth Friday afternoons. Orthopaedic Nurse every opening. Surgeon attends every four months.

Shotton—Central School. First and Third Friday mornings. Orthopaedic Nurse at every opening and Surgeon every two months.

POST-NATAL—To all women who desire them, consultations with the Authority's Medical Officer are available at the Ante-Natal and the Infant Welfare Centres already described.

TUBERCULOSIS—The following Clinics—conducted by Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association—operated throughout the year under report :—

Holywell—Cottage Hospital. Every Tuesday. 10-30 a.m.

Penyffordd—Meadowslea Hospital. Every Monday and Thursday. 2 p.m.

Queensferry—Oaklands, near The Cross. Every Wednesday. 10 a.m.

Rhyl—27, Edward Henry Street. Every Friday. 10 a.m.

The Queensferry Clinic above referred to serves for the time being the areas of Queensferry, Shotton, Connah's Quay, Sandycroft, Sealand, Hawarden, Buckley and Mold.

VISUAL DEFECTS—Defects of vision in school children are dealt with by an Assistant School Medical Officer who possesses an eye-testing outfit usable in any suitable room in a school or clinic. Spectacles are prescribed under this scheme and, if necessary, supplied (through local opticians) at a low cost—free in the case of children whose parents cannot afford any payment.

Cases needing the attention of an Eye Specialist are referred to the authorities of the Chester Royal Infirmary, with whom the Education Committee have an arrangement providing for the refractional treatment of such children, the Committee sustaining the cost at the rate of 10/6 per case so referred and prescribed for.

Children suffering from squint are also treated (at the Infirmary's Orthoptic Department) under this Scheme.

VENEREAL DISEASE—A Department of the Royal Infirmary, Chester, is an approved Treatment Centre—within the meaning of Article III of the Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916—where treatment is available to Flintshire patients under an agreement made between the Infirmary's Board of Management and the Flintshire County Council. Opening four times weekly the Centre's arrangements are as follows:—

Male Patients—Every Wednesday. 5 to 7 p.m., and every Saturday. 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Female Patients—Every Monday. 5 to 7 p.m., and every Thursday. 5 to 7 p.m.

The number of persons who availed themselves of these treatment facilities during 1944 is given in Section F of this Report.

6. HOSPITALS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

GENERAL—Available to local patients, the general (voluntary) hospitals situated in the County are the Cottage Hospitals of Flint, Holywell and Mold, the Prince Edward War Memorial Hospital, Rhyl, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Of the hospitals situated outside the County those most frequently used by Flintshire residents are the Royal Infirmary, Chester, the Denbighshire Infirmary, Denbigh, the Ellesmere Cottage Hospital, the various large hospitals of Liverpool, the Whitchurch Cottage Hospital and the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Infirmary, Wrexham.

The provision of extended and improved hospital accommodation must receive early consideration in the post-war period. The proposals outlined in the Government White Paper "The National Health Service" have been debated and discussed at length, and have been altered in certain respects, but little, of anything, has been done to provide the much needed accommodation. Local Authorities are prevented from formulating plans in this respect by the fact that the report on the regional survey carried out by Sir Ernest Rock Carling and Dr. T. S. McIntosh on behalf of the Minister of Health has not yet been published.

ISOLATION—Three Isolation Hospitals serve the needs of the County (excluding two—Sealand and Wrexham—which belong to neighbouring Authorities). They are respectively situated at Hawarden, St. Asaph and Towyn (near Abergele) and belong to Flintshire Local Sanitary Authorities.

MENTAL—The County is served by the North Wales Mental Hospital, Denbigh, in respect of the treatment of lunatic and certain other mentally defective persons, including voluntary patients.

Mental Deficiency Institutions are dealt with in Sections B(7) and K of this Report.

ORTHOPAEDIC—Flintshire cripples are treated at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen, Shropshire, in accordance with the arrangements described in previous Reports.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—Situated within the County, and owned by the County Council, there are two Public Assistance Hospitals—one at Holywell and one at St. Asaph.

Also utilised under arrangement, but situated outside the County, are the two Public Assistance Hospitals of Ellesmere and Whitchurch.

SMALLPOX—The Smallpox Hospital at Rhydtalog is available for the admission of both Flintshire and Denbighshire patients, the Councils of both Counties constituting a Joint Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS—The examination, supervision and treatment of persons suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from this disease, is carried out on behalf of the County Council, by the Welsh National Memorial Association, whose several modern and well-equipped Hospitals are available to Flintshire patients.

The only tuberculosis Hospital actually within the County is that known as "Meadowslea" and situated at Penyffordd, half-way between Mold and Chester.

7. INSTITUTIONS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

BLINDNESS—The "Llys Onnen" Home for the Blind, situated at Abergele, Denbighshire, is a residential and holiday home for blind persons who are under the supervision of the North Wales Society for the Blind. Opened during the later months of 1942, it can accommodate one blind person permanently from Flintshire, and others, temporarily, for short holiday periods.

The education of blind children at special schools is, of course, a long established service arranged by the Education Committee.

CONVALESCENCE—The convalescent homes in the County are all situated at Rhyl. Voluntarily established and controlled, they comprise:—The Royal Alexandra Convalescent Home, The William and John Jones Convalescent Home, The Men's Convalescent Institution (Bedford Street), The South Yorkshire Miners' Home (Colet House, East Parade), The Stoke-on-Trent Children's Convalescence and Holiday Home (Chester Street) and the Women's Convalescent Home (Church Street).

Of these the Royal Alexandra Convalescent Home is the only one now available to Flintshire residents for convalescence purposes, and this only to a very limited extent. Excluding the South Yorkshire Miners' Home, the remainder were taken over by H. M. Government for use under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, or as Auxiliary Red Cross Hospitals.

MATERNITY—Maternity beds are available at the St. Asaph Public Assistance Hospital, and at the 14 private Nursing Homes in the County. in addition to those (23) at the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, near Queensferry.

In addition, maternity beds are available for the time being at the Emergency Maternity Home at Chatsworth House, Prestatyn, which Home was set up under the Evacuation Scheme to provide accommodation for evacuee expectant mothers. These facilities were fully utilised until the end of 1943, by which time the number of evacuee expectant mothers had fallen considerably, and the Welsh Board of Health agreed that the accommodation could be utilised for Flintshire expectant mothers provided that **evacuees had** the first claim. In the early part of 1944, many Flintshire patients availed themselves of its facilities, but bookings had to be suspended in order to cope with the number of expectant mothers evacuated from the London area on account of V-bombs. Later in the year it was found possible to re-commence bookings for Flintshire patients and increasing advantage is now being taken of these facilities, which fill a much needed gap in the Authority's maternity services.

Reference was made in my previous report as to the need for the establishment of a properly equipped maternity hospital in the western part of the County, and it is sincerely hoped that pending such provision it will be found possible to retain Chatsworth House as a Maternity Home.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY—Three Institutions serve the County as certified Mental Deficiency Institutions—those at Broughton (temporarily removed to Fronfraith, Rhyl), St. Asaph, and Holywell. The Board of Control's approval of these has been received.

The Institution situated at Coed Du, Rhydymwyn, Flintshire, belongs to Denbighshire.

NURSING—Registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act there are 14 private Nursing Homes in the County, all of which are periodically visited and supervised by the Council's Supervisor of Midwives.

Of the beds provided at these Homes, 36 are for maternity and 16 for general nursing cases.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—The Public Assistance Institutions which serve the needs of Flintshire are those previously mentioned under this heading as Hospitals.

8. HEALTH SERVICES—NON-INSTITUTIONAL.

(Arranged alphabetically).

ANTE-NATAL—The welfare of the Expectant Mother is supervised in Flintshire by the County Council's Health Visitors, as well as by the Medical Officers of the various Centres, etc., already mentioned. County and private Midwives also render very useful service under this head.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION—As will be gathered from Table 12 of this Report, the requirements of the Notification of Births Act are conscientiously observed in Flintshire.

BLINDNESS—Non-Institutional provisions made by the Council in favour of the blind persons of Flintshire include—(1) medical examination by a Specialist; (2) direct medical advice and treatment; (3) financial aid; (4) material aid in kind, i.e., clothing, boots, etc.; (5) home teaching; (6) visitation by expert supervisors.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION—The Council's Health Visitors are also Child Life Protection Visitors within the meaning of Section 209 of the Public Health Act of 1936, and all the foster children who are statutorily registered as such are duly visited and supervised.

CONVALESCENCE—A section of the work of the Flintshire Ailing Children Trust (Organiser: Miss Gwendolen Davies-Cooke), is devoted to the interests of children aged under 5 years, and in recognition of this the County Council make a small grant annually towards the Trust Funds. Owing to the war, however, only a very limited number of children can now be admitted to the Convalescent Home (at Rhyl).

HOME HELPS AND DOMESTIC HELPS—In order to meet the domestic needs of women who are unable to make satisfactory arrangements of their own at the time of their confinement, some Welfare Authorities have included the provision of Home Helps as part of their Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Similar schemes have been suggested for providing assistance at home for the care of young children and also of the aged.

To produce schemes is comparatively simple, but to produce the personnel necessary for the proper working of the scheme has proved to be a most formidable task, and it has not been found possible in Flintshire to put either scheme into operation.

HOME NURSING—Home Nursing is carried out in this County only by the District Nurses belonging to the various Nursing Associations and by Nurses practising independently.

INFANT WELFARE—Twelve trained and experienced Nurses serve the County as Health Visitors, their duties including the regular and systematic visitation of children aged under five years. These Nurses are notified of all births occurring in their areas and they visit the infants as soon as possible after the Midwife has ceased to attend. Repeat visits are then made as and when required until the children reach the age of five years.

An additional Nurse assisted temporarily at Rhyl throughout the year.

LABORATORY WORK—Reference to Section B (2) of this Report will indicate that the County is very well served by the facilities provided (at Conway) by the Medical Research Council.

MATERNITY (GENERAL)—Available to the women of Flintshire the following services—all elsewhere mentioned in this Report—have been provided by the Authority :—ante-natal supervision, hospital treatment, maternity home accommodation, medical aid (to midwives), obstetric consultations (specialistic), post-natal supervision and puerperal fever consultations (specialistic).

To this list may of course be added the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease, free of cost to patients desiring it.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—The previously described assistance rendered to the Ministry of Health Maternal Mortality Committee was continued throughout the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY—The welfare of mentally defective persons not in institutions is supervised, under the direction of the Authority's Mental Deficiency Committee, by members of the County Council. These visit the defectives at their homes and report to the Committee quarterly and at other times as may be necessary.

MIDWIFERY—The County possesses an efficient midwifery service consisting of privately practising Midwives, Midwives belonging to District Nursing Associations, Institutional Midwives and County Domiciliary Midwives.

Particulars of these are given in Section H of this Report.

Medical aid is, of course, available to all Midwives under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918.

MILK—Pasteurised or other approved milk is supplied to school children in the County at ½d. per one-third pint—free of charge to those whose parents cannot afford to pay this amount. The quality of this milk is supervised by the School Medical Officer, who frequently takes samples for bacteriological examination. The general milk supply is supervised in the County by the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose officers periodically visit and report upon the milk shops, dairies, etc., and the work of eliminating tuberculosis from the milk produced in the County is carried out by the resident Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, mentioned in an early page of this report.

OBSTETRIC DIFFICULTIES—As mentioned in the early pages of this Report, the services of Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley, of Chester, are available to Flintshire patients requiring expert treatment under this head.

ORTHOPAEDICS—Provision exists for the orthopaedic treatment of infants aged under five years who are suffering from crippling defects. Similar arrangements, conducted by the Education Committee, exist on behalf of children of school age, and persons aged over sixteen years are likewise provided for by a voluntary body known as the Flintshire Orthopaedic Voluntary Organisation.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—Every case notified is referred to the Authority's Supervisor of Midwives who immediately visits to ensure that efficient treatment is made available to the infant. When medical treatment is domiciliary unavailable or inadequate, the child concerned is admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Chester—usually under voluntary arrangements but at the expense of the County Council if the parents cannot privately secure the child's admission.

The issue to the Midwives of a prophylactic drug for use in preventing the onset of this disease is still continued.

OUTBOARDED CHILDREN—Arrangements have now been made for the special supervision (by the Council's School Nurses) of all the Flintshire children who have been outboarded with foster parents by the Education Committee. The Nurses pay domiciliary visits and report periodically on each child to the School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—For the purpose of administering this form of relief the County is divided into four Districts (Hawarden, Holywell, Overton and St. Asaph) each under its "Guardians Committee" and having its own medical staff. Of these medical officers, none is, at present, engaged in such work in a whole-time capacity.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—The provision made by the Authority on behalf of women suffering from puerperal pyrexia include the following:—Hospital Accommodation (at St. Asaph Isolation Hospital), Specialistic Aid (the services of a Consultant), Home Nursing (by experienced Nurse) if considered necessary, and Bacteriological Examinations (services of Pathologist).

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN—The supervision of the health of the children attending the Schools of our County—a duty which devolves upon the County Council as the Local Education Authority—forms the subject of special reports submitted as required to the Authority's Education Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS—The "After-care" Scheme instituted by the Authority in 1941 continued to function throughout the year under review. Designed to expedite the recovery of persons suffering from tuberculosis by assisting them financially and/or in kind, thereby eliminating their domestic anxieties in a substantial degree, it very soon showed its value as a health measure, and is now an important branch of the Council's health services.

Under this scheme maintenance allowances, discretionary allowances and special allowances are available to persons who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and who have given up remunerative employment in order to undergo treatment. Such allowances continue, under periodical review, so long as the Tuberculosis Physician certifies that there is a prospect of the patient being restored to working capacity. All expenditure under this scheme is fully reimbursed to the Authority by the Ministry of Health.

A second Tuberculosis Visitor began duty on the 1st July, 1945.

VENEREAL DISEASES—Mention has already been made of the hospital and clinical facilities provided for the treatment of these diseases. Arrangements exist, however, for the payment of the expenses incurred by patients in travelling to and from the Treatment Centre. These are paid in the first instance directly to the patient by the Hospital authorities, and the amounts are refunded quarterly by the County Council. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that this provision exists only on behalf of patients who cannot afford the payments themselves.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES—Two war-time nurseries operated in the County, one at Flint and the other at Shotton, throughout the year.

Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The supervision of closet accommodation, provision for refuse collection and disposal, cesspool cleansing, the sanitary inspection of their respective areas, the inspection and supervision of shops, offices and camping sites, the abatement of nuisances, including any arising from smoke, the supervision of swimming baths and pools, disinfection and disinfestation—all these are included in the duties which devolve primarily upon Local Sanitary Authorities and upon which the respective District Medical Officers of Health are required to report annually and, when necessary, specifically.

Concerning drainage and sewerage, rivers and streams, school sanitary conditions, water supplies, etc., there is nothing of outstanding interest to report in respect of the year under review.

Section D.—HOUSING.

HOUSING—The various Acts and Regulations pertaining to this subject are administered by the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose duties also include the inspection and supervision of the housing conditions of their respective areas.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

ADULTERATION—The arrangements made to ensure that food-stuffs sold to the public for human consumption are unadulterated, are outlined in the various appropriate paragraphs of this Section.

ANALYSIS OF FOODSTUFFS—The specimens of food and drugs taken by the various Inspectors for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst, whose reports are of course submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee.

FOOD AND DRUGS—The provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, which is administered by the County Council (the executive work being carried out by duly appointed officers of the County Police acting under the direction of the Chief Constable) have been outlined in previous reports.

340 samples were formally taken during the year under review, and of these, 51 were found to be below standard. Appropriate action was taken by the Chief Constable against the offenders.

The "below standard" articles were:—Milk 47; Egmol 1; Self-raising Flour 1; Whiskey 1; Unfermented Vinegar 1.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—The supervision of the general food supply, involving at least the registration, inspection, etc., of bakehouses, slaughter-houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and all the other places where food is prepared, commercially handled or exposed for sale, is a duty which devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authorities.

MILK (ARTIFICIAL CREAM)—No sample was taken for analysis during the year under report.

MILK (CONDENSED)—No sample was analysed during the year under report.

MILK (DRIED)—No sample of this was taken during the period under report.

MILK (HOUSEHOLD)—No sample taken.

MILK (FRESH)—The parts of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, administrable by the Local Sanitary Authorities were duly observed by the various Authorities and their requirements carried out.

Also carried out are the requirements of Part IV, which, formerly devolving upon the County Council, now form part of the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture's Divisional Inspector.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1936, certificates issuable by the Clerk of the County Council were held by Flintshire producers at the close of 1944, as follows :—For the sale of milk with the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” 38 ; For the sale of milk designated “Accredited” 624.

The corresponding figures at the time of writing this Report (June, 1945), are respectively, 39 and 620.

Reports of the tubercular milk sent to neighbouring areas by Flintshire farmers were received during the year from the Authorities of such areas as follows :—Liverpool 2, Wallasey 5. These were, of course, all investigated and satisfactorily dealt with.

No reports of unsatisfactory non-tubercular milk was received from anyone outside the County.

An unsatisfactory condition as regards the farm was brought to notice by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture in the case of one milk producer, and this was duly reported to the Local Sanitary Authority concerned.

NUTRITION—Apart from the several means of disseminating information concerning food values and nutrition generally—employed mainly in the Maternity and Child Welfare Services—the Authority undertook no special campaign or effort during the year in regard to this subject.

PRESERVATIVES—The arrangements made to ensure that the foods consumed by the public are free from dangerous preservatives are outlined in a preceding paragraph. Regulations bearing on the subject are issued by the Ministry of Health from time to time.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCAN)—The duty of reporting upon shellfish beds or laying is one which devolves upon the Medical Officer of Health of the Sanitary Districts in which such beds or layings are situated.

Section F.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

DISINFECTION—The disinfection of premises, clothing, bedding, etc., after infectious disease is a duty which devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authorities, the work being generally carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

INCIDENCES—The diseases which were notified in Flintshire during the year under review, are shown numerically in Table 5 of this Report. No case was notified of any disease which, though notifiable, is not named in such table.

LABORATORY WORK—The laboratory facilities available at Conway were extensively used, during the year, by medical officers of the County Council and the Local Sanitary Authorities, and also by numerous general medical practitioners. As previously stated, this laboratory also rendered invaluable assistance in connection with the supplying of material for diphtheria immunisation work.

SERA, SPECIAL TESTS, ETC.—The availability to the public of sera such as diphtheria anti-toxin or anti-meningococcus serum is a matter which primarily concerns the Local Sanitary Authorities.

B.—DISEASES.

CANCER—There were during the year under report 17 more deaths from this disease in Flintshire than during the preceding year, the respective figures being (1942) 208, (1943) 223, (1944) 240.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER—11 cases of this disease were notified during the year, and 2 deaths were registered.

It is interesting to note that in 1940 and 1941 the cases notified numbered 111 and 85 respectively.

DIPHTHERIA—316 cases were notified, and 10 deaths were registered, during the year.

The work of immunising the juvenile population goes on systematically. At the end of the year under review the percentages of the children in the various Sanitary Districts known to have been immunised (as at 31st December, 1944) were as follows :—

Children aged 1 to 5 years :—Urban Districts : Buckley, 59.8 ; Connah's Quay, 98.7 ; Flint, 100.0 ; Holywell, 88.0 ; Mold, 100.0 ; Prestatyn, 99.5 ; Rhyl, 60.8. Rural Districts : Hawarden, 43.7 ; Holywell, 77.5 ; Overton, 89.1 ; St. Asaph, 66.6.

Children aged 5 to 15 years :—Urban Districts : Buckley, 71.1 ; Connah's Quay, 71.2 ; Flint, 95.1 ; Holywell, 91.4 ; Mold, 86.7 ; Prestatyn, 98.8 ; Rhyl, 88.3. Rural Districts : Hawarden, 81.6 ; Holywell, 75.7 ; Overton, 80.9 ; St. Asaph, 77.7.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—Statistics relative to this disease appear in the Section of this Report which relates to Infant Welfare.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—Additional particulars concerning this condition will be found in the Section headed "Welfare of Mothers."

SMALLPOX—1,304 successful primary vaccinations of children aged under 14 years were effected during the year ended the 31st December, 1944.

VENEREAL DISEASES—The number of Flintshire patients newly dealt with at the Treatment Centre (Chester) during the year under report, excluding those known to have been treated elsewhere, was 89, the figure being made up as follows:—Syphilis, Males 15, Females 16, Total 31; Gonorrhoea, Males 26, Females 11, Total 37; Solf Chancre, Males 2, Females 0, Total 2; Non-venereal or Undiagnosed Conditions, Males 7, Females 12, Total 19.

These patients made 1,585 attendances during the period reviewed, and 805 pathological examinations were carried out at the Treatment Centre's Laboratory.

In addition to the foregoing, 13 Flintshire patients (3 Syphilis, 6 Gonorrhoea, 4 Non-venereal) received treatment at a Wrexham Treatment Centre, where they made 92 attendances.

TUBERCULOSIS—Numerical particulars of the deaths registered during the year as due to this disease are reported in Tables 3 and 4 of this Report.

The number of formal primary notifications received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930, was 230, made up as follows:—Pulmonary 186 (Males 101, Females 85); Non-pulmonary 44 (Males 18, Females 26).

No special action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The beneficent work of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association was of course continued throughout the year.

During the year under report, 161 applicants received assistance in cash and/or in kind under the Council Council's After-care Scheme.

Table 3.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS.

District.	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.				All Forms.				Grand Total.	
	M*	F†	M*	F†	M*	F†	M*	F†						
Urban—														
Buckley	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1
Connah's Quay	...	2	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	4
Flint (M.B.)	...	2	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	4
Holywell	...	3	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	3	...	2	...	5
Mold	...	2	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	1	...	3
Prestatyn	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
Rhyl	...	8	...	2	...	—	...	1	...	8	...	3	...	11
Rural—														
Hawarden	...	4	...	4	...	—	...	4	...	4	...	8	...	12
Holywell	...	5	...	6	...	2	...	—	...	7	...	6	...	13
Overton	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1
St. Asaph	...	2	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	4
Urban District	...	18	...	8	...	—	...	3	...	18	...	11	...	29
Rural Districts	...	11	...	13	...	2	...	4	...	13	...	17	...	30
Whole County	...	29	...	21	...	2	...	7	...	31	...	28	...	59

* Males. † Females.

Table 4.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group.	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.				All Forms.				Grand Total.	
	M		F		M		F		M		F			
0—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1
5—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1
15—	...	15	...	18	...	2	...	4	...	17	...	22	...	39
45—	...	10	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	10	...	2	...	12
65—	...	4	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	4	...	2	...	6
Totals	...	29	...	21	...	2	...	7	...	31	...	28	...	59

Table 5.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases notified during the year.

Notifiable Disease	Urban Districts.							Rural Districts.				Administrative County
	Buckley	Connah's Quay	Flint M. B.	Holywell	Mold	Prestatyn	Rhyl	Hawarden	Holywell	Overton	St. Asaph	
Cerebro-spinal												
Fever ...	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	11
Chicken Pox ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria ...	1	13	129	42	16	14	30	24	33	2	12	316
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	2	4	14	—	—	—	8	28
Encephalitis ...												
Leth. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever												
(Typhoid) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	4	—	5	3	—	4	7	3	5	—	5	36
Malaria												
(Recurrence) ...	—	—	1	—	—	38	—	11	—	—	—	50
Measles ...	8	1	43	7	—	24	35	50	23	16	19	226
Ophthalmia												
Neonatorum	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	8
Paratyphoids	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	6
Pemphigus												
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis												
(Acute) ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Polioencephalitis												
(Acute) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia												
(Acute) ...	9	7	17	13	—	2	21	17	27	3	13	129
Puerperal												
Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	3	—	2	3	2	7	1	2	21
Rubella ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	23	5	12	20	42	27	23	84	60	4	17	317
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (see Special Tables)												
Whooping												
Cough ...	37	7	24	11	1	50	76	54	34	25	8	327

Section G.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Particulars of the Institutions concerned with, and the personnel engaged in, the administration of public assistance have been given in early pages of this Report.

I now present statistics relative to this Service in its association with Maternity and Child Welfare:—

Table 6.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.
(Maternity Service).

Description.	Holywell.	St. Asaph.
1. No. of Maternity Beds on last day of year ...	—	24
2. Beds (included above) reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment ...	—	3
3. Maternity cases admitted during the year ...	—	215
4. Women (included in No. 3 above) treated during the year in the beds referred to under No. 2 (above)	—	51
5. Average duration (in days) of treatment of expectant mothers in the beds shown against No. 2 (above)	—	21
6. Average duration of stay of cases included against No. 3 (above)	—	16
7. Cases delivered by Midwives	—	189
8. Cases delivered by Doctors	—	23
9. Cases in which medical assistance was sought by a Midwife in emergency	—	—*
10. Cases admitted after delivery	—	3
11. Cases notified as Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2
12. Cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum	—	—
13. Infants not entirely breast-fed	—	29
14. Infants wholly breast-fed	—	209
15. Cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1
16. No. of Maternal Deaths	—	1
17. No. of Stillbirths	—	13
18. No. of Infant Deaths	—	11

* Medical Officer notified of every case when in labour.

Section H.

WELFARE OF MOTHERS.

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES—The activities of the Ante-natal Centres mentioned in this Report are indicated, in respect of the year under review, in the following Table:—

Table 7.

ANTE-NATAL ATTENDANCES OF WOMEN AT CENTRES.

Centre.		Number of Sessions.	Patients dealt with			Aggregate Attend- ances.
			Old† Cases.	New Cases.	Total Cases*	
Bagillt	...	21	3	38	41	93
Buckley	...	21	8	50	58	170
Caergwrle	...	21	4	33	37	118
Flint	...	21	19	102	121	457
Holywell	...	22	29	124	153	427
Mold	...	21	16	109	125	412
Prestatyn	...	22	11	114	125	385
Rhyl	...	22	32	157	189	710
Saltney	...	21	—	53	53	211
Shotton	...	49	65	278	343	1350
Totals	...	241	187	1058	1245**	4333

† *Patients whose names were on the books at the beginning of the year.*

** *Exclusive of 88 patients (149 interviews) at Chatsworth House Prestatyn.*

Midwives are strongly encouraged in this County in connection with the work of supervising expectant mothers and it can truthfully be said that the great majority of those who book their Midwives reasonably early are visited and re-visited by the Midwives concerned.

During the year under review the Midwives of Flintshire—in their capacity as Midwives, not as Maternity Nurses—paid 6,536 ante-natal visits to patients. As Maternity Nurses they paid an additional 2,192 visits.

The Authority's Health Visitors also render useful service in connection with the supervision of expectant mothers.

POST-NATAL SERVICES—It is highly gratifying to find that so many women attend the Centres after their confinement, as such consultations enable the Medical Officer to ascertain whether the patient is suffering from any disability consequent upon parturition, and, if so, to advise her appropriately regarding treatment.

Table 8.

POST-NATAL ATTENDANCES OF WOMEN AT CENTRES.

Year 1944.

Centre	No. of Sessions.			Patients dealt with.				Aggregate Attendances	
				Old*	New	Total	Cases.		
Bagillt	...	21	...	—	...	—	...	...	—
Buckley	...	21	...	1	...	6	...	7	12
Caergwrle	...	21	...	—	...	5	...	5	5
Flint	...	21	...	3	...	5	...	8	12
Holywell	...	22	...	1	...	15	...	16	22
Mold	...	21	...	1	...	11	...	12	22
Prestatyn	...	21	...	4	...	14	...	18	23
Rhyl	...	22	...	1	...	5	...	6	12
Saltney	...	21	...	—	...	—	...	—	—
Shotton	...	49	...	7	...	25	...	32	40
Totals	...	240	...	18	...	86	...	104	148

* *Patients whose names were on the books at the beginning of the year.*

MATERNITY INSTITUTIONS—The oldest established of these is of course the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, particulars of which have been given in past Reports. At this Institution no fewer than 410 patients were admitted during the year under review.

To the St. Asaph Public Assistance Hospital 215 patients were admitted.

“Evacuee” and other women were admitted to the Chatsworth House Improvised Maternity Home, Prestatyn, the number admitted during the year being 242.

At the 14 private institutions registered under Section 187 of the 1936 Public Health Act, 36 beds were provided for the accommodation of maternity cases and 16 for others. 223 visits were paid to these Nursing Homes by the Authority's Supervisor of Midwives during the year under report.

MIDWIFERY—From a Table which follows it will be gathered that 93 Flintshire Midwives were in practice in the County at the end of the year, 21 of these being in the direct employ, institutionally or otherwise, of the County Council.

There supervision is maintained on behalf of the Council by the County Medical Officer, the visitation and executive work being carried out by a full-time Supervisor who, in the course of the year under report, paid 482 inspectional, and 734 special visits (vide Table 10).

The number of cases attended by the Midwives acting as Midwives during the year was 1,709, and the number attended by them as Maternity Nurses was 774.

The various notifications received from the Midwives during the year totalled 652, of which 472 announced their having "called in medical aid."

Midwives were temporarily suspended from practice (to prevent the spread of infection) on 16 occasions.

Table 9.

MIDWIVES IN PRACTICE.

Classification.	Trained and Cer- tified.	Certi- fied only.	Uncer- tified.	Total.
Employed by County Council—				
At Mancot Maternity Home ...	2	4	—	6
At Holywell P. A. Institution ...	1	1	—	2
At St. Asaph P. A. Institution ...	4	3	—	7
As Domiciliary Midwives ...	2	4	—	6
Employed by Voluntary Associations—				
Flintshire Nursing Association ...	11	19	—	30
Other (Local) Nursing Assoc'ns ...	—	—	—	—
Independent—				
In Private Nursing Homes ...	6	7	—	13
In General Practice ...	7	16	—	23
Total in practice at end of year ...	33	54	—	87

* *Exclusive of 6 attending to "evacuee" women at Chatsworth House, Prestatyn.*

Table 10.
SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

Classification.	Number of Inspections.		
	Routine.	Special.	Total.
Employed by the County Council—			
At the Mancot Maternity Home	...	21	21
At the Holywell P. A. Institution	...	—	—
At the St. Asaph P. A. Institution	...	4	4
As Domiciliary Midwives	...	128	161
Employed by Voluntary Associations—			
Flintshire Nursing Association	...	329	481
Other (Local) Nursing Associations	...	—	—
Independently employed—			
In Private Nursing Homes	...	49	223
In General Practice	...	194	317
As Unregistered Women	...	4	4
Total Inspections	...	729	1211*

* The midwife was inspected while actually at work in 293 of these cases.

The special visits referred to in the foregoing Table were paid mainly for the reasons specified below :—

Table 11.
SPECIAL VISITS TO MIDWIVES.

Reason for Special Visitation.	No. of Visits.		
Maternal Death Investigation	2
Infant Death Investigation	28
Stillbirth Investigation	35
Puerperal Pyxeria Supervision	128
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Supervision	83
Other Emergencies	309
Non-emergency Special Visits	149
Total Special Visits	734*

* The Midwife was inspected while actually at work in 293 of these cases.

Interviews with the County Medical Officer concerning Midwives and Midwifery numbered 97.

OBSTETRIC AND PUERPERAL DIFFICULTIES—The Authority's Consultant was called in during the year in respect of 16 cases of Obstetric, and 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia difficulty, and I take this opportunity of recording his prompt response and skilled service in the case of every patient attended.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia brought to the Authority's notice was 50, of whom 1 was an "evacuee" woman.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—4 women died during the year from causes associated with pregnancy or parturition. Of these deaths, none was caused by puerperal sepsis, all four being due to other causes.

STILLBIRTHS—Statistical particulars of the still-births which occurred during the period reviewed are given in an early Section of this Report.

Section I.

WELFARE OF INFANTS.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION—Under the provisions of the Notification of Births Act, 2,487 births were notified to the Authority during the year, the figure being made up as follows:—

Table 12.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION.

Births notified during the year.

By whom notified.	Number.		
	Live.	Still.	Total.
Midwives (including Maternity Nurses) ...	2049	52	2101
Medical Practitioners (including Medical Officers)	266	1	267
Parents (or Relatives)	—	—	—
Chatsworth House (Flintshire Patients) ...	114	5	119*
Totals	2429	58	2487*

* Excluding 103 births to "evacuee" women."

CENTRES—The activities of the Authority's Infant Welfare Centres—now numbering eleven—are given in Table 13.

Table 13.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, 1944.

Summary of Attendances, etc.

Description	Bagilt	Broughton	Buckley	Caergwile	Flint	Holywell	Mold	Mostyn	Prestatyn	Rhyl	Saltney	Shotton	Total
Number of Sessions held, i.e., number of times Centre opened during the year	49	49	48	49	48	49	49	22	49	49	49	48	558
Children who attended the Centre during the year for the first time and who, on the date of their first attendance, were—													
Aged under 1 year ..	56	90	199	166	150	146	253	62	204	374	139	716	2555
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	2	54	128	71	17	10	101	12	37	63	88	177	760
Total	58	144	327	237	167	156	354	74	241	437	227	893	3315
Children who attended the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were—													
Aged under 1 year ..	49	34	128	88	114	176	183	50	278	300	83	437	1920
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	44	53	195	78	316	74	235	100	126	390	82	456	2149
Total	93	87	323	166	430	250	418	150	404	690	165	893	4069
Attendances made at the Centre during the year by children—													
Aged under 1 year ..	440	1073	1600	1525	2396	1218	3029	553	3612	5255	1744	7537	29982
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	79	561	268	297	281	904	891	330	974	865	881	848	7179
Total	519	1634	1868	1822	2677	2122	3920	883	4586	6120	2625	8385	37161

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION—At the end of the year under review, 26 persons were registered as having the care of children within the meaning of Section 206 of the Public Health Act of 1936, the number of children concerned being 39. One death only occurred among these children during the year.

As accredited Child Life Protection Visitors the Authority's Health Visitors paid 754 visits to the said children.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN—Notices were received during the year under Section 7 (3) of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, in respect of 5 children.

HOME VISITATION—The work of the Authority's Nurses acting in their capacity as Health Visitors is detailed in Table 15 of this Report. From this Table it will be gathered that the Nurses paid an aggregate of 25,960 visits to children under five years of age.

MILK (SUPPLY OF)—No issue of milk was found necessary to supplement the provisions made during the year under the National Cheap Milk Scheme.

Table 14.

THE WORK OF THE COUNTY HEALTH VISITORS.

NOTE—(1) *Except in relation to adult persons, the words "First Visits" throughout this Table mean first visits literally, the infants referred to never having been visited in this County at any time before.* (2) *The work of the County Supervisor of Midwives is excluded herefrom.*

GENERAL VISITS AND RE-VISITS TO INFANTS.

	A.	B.	C.
Aged under 1 mth.—First Visits (A) ; Re-Vis. (B) ; Total (C)	2410	325	2735
Aged 1 to 12 months do. do. do. ...	101	9661	9762
Aged 1 to 5 years do. do. do. ...	55	13408	13463
Total aged under 5 do. do. do. ...	2566	23394	25960

CONDITIONS FOUND ON FIRST VISITS.

Feeding—Breast only (A) ; Breast and other (B) ;			
Other foods only (C)	...	...	...
	1408	416	601

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—CASES VISITED, ETC.

(Note—This Section relates to infants aged under 5 only).

Epid. Diarrhoea—First Visit (A) ; Re-vit. (B) ; Total (C)	18	21	39
Pemphigus Neo. do. do. do. ...	—	—	—
Other Infec. Diseases do. do. do. ...	310	369	679

Table 14 (continued).

				A.	B.	C.
OTHER ROUTINE VISITS.						
Expectant Mothers—First Visits (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C)				486	481	967
Deaths (Under 1 mth.)	do.	do.	do. ...	11	—	11
do. (Aged 1—12 mths.)	do.	do.	do. ...	11	—	11
do. (Aged 1—5 years)	do.	do.	do. ...	5	—	5
SPECIAL ENQUIRIES, INVESTIGATIONS, ETC.						
Doctors' Fees—First Visits (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C)			...	382	281	663
Maternity Home Cases	do.	do.	do. ...	64	30	94
Mental Defectives	do.	do.	do. ...	6	12	18
Orthopaedic Cases	do.	do.	do. ...	4	29	33
Infant Life Protection	do.	do.	do. ...	100	548	648
Rhyl Cases	do.	do.	do. ...	2	4	6
WELFARE CENTRES.						
Ante-Natal—Attendances by Nurse			...	—	—	260
Infant Welfare	do.		...	—	—	608
Orthopaedic	do.		...	—	—	72
MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES.						
Diphtheria—Immunisation (Session)		...	... ...	—	—	39

MORTALITY—Figures relative to the year's deaths of infants aged under one year are given in an early Section of this Report.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—20 cases of "Discharging Eyes" were brought to the Authority's notice during the year under review, and it is gratifying to be able to report complete recovery in every case. Eight of the cases only of these were diagnosed as Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The issue of the prophylactic drug to Midwives was continued throughout the year.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT—The number of children who attended the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year was 383. Of these, 113 were under five years of age, and 270 over five but under sixteen years. The attendances of such children totalled 835.

Of these cases the names of 99 were removed from the books during the year under review.

Section J.—BLIND PERSONS.

The number of Flintshire persons who, on the 31st March, 1945, were registered in the Authority's books as blind was 238.

Of these aged over 16 years, 41 were recorded as employed, 1 undergoing training, 0 as trained but unemployed, 2 as untrained but trainable, and 190 as unemployable.

Of the unemployable, 1 was in a home for the blind, 2 were in mental hospitals, and 4 in public assistance institutions.

Those aged from 5 to 16 years numbered 4, of whom 2 were free from defect other than blindness, and 2 mentally defective.

Taking the blind persons as a whole, 32 had afflictions other than blindness, e.g., mental deficiency, deafness, etc.

Section K.—MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

BROUGHTON INSTITUTION—At the end of the year the inmates of this Institution were still housed at Fronfraith, Russell Road, Rhyl, which premises have been duly approved by the Board of Control as a Certified Mental Deficiency Institution for the reception of twenty-two defectives, comprising not more than 5 males and not more than 17 females.

At the time of writing (September, 1945) the Institution accommodates 31 defectives (excluding 1 licence).

HOLYWELL INSTITUTION—The Certificate of the Board of Control approves this Institution as a Mental Deficiency Institution for the reception of twelve female defectives.

The Institution was visited by a Commissioner of the Board of Control on the 20th October, 1944, and a copy of his report now follows:—

“The same patients who were seen at the last visit are still detained here under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, 1890 (Section 24), and Mental Deficiency Acts. I saw them all to-day. They are well looked after, contented and happy.

Their surroundings and occupations are as described in the last Report. Since August last the Institution has housed 26 evacuees from the London area and this has resulted in the 12 feeble-minded women having to share their day room with inmates of the house. They retain their own dormitory. The new arrangement appears to work satisfactorily.”

ST. ASAPH INSTITUTION—The Board of Control's Certificate authorises the reception of twenty-four defectives (not more than twelve males and not more than twelve females) at this Institution.

This Institution was visited by a Board of Control Commissioner on the 19th October, 1944, and the following report was subsequently received :—

“There is only 1 patient—a woman—detained here under Section 24 Lunacy Act, 1890, and 10 men and 3 women are also detained under the Mental Deficiency Acts. The accommodation for these patients is suitable and they enjoy kindly care. The male mental defectives do cleaning and gardening, and the women who are capable of it do laundry and kitchen work.

The one man and one woman specially mentioned at the last visit are still here. One young man goes out daily to Rhyl to work at a bakery and earns £3/18/0 a week. He is doing well.”

GENERAL—By the courtesy of the Clerk of the County Council, I am able to give below an extract from a return submitted by him to the Board of Control giving particulars of Flintshire mental defectives as on 1st January, 1945.

Table 15.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Defectives “Subject to be dealt with” by the County Council.

Description.	Aged under 16 years.			Aged over 16 years.			Total Persons.			
	M.		F.	M.		F.				
Under “ Order ” :—										
In Institutions	...	6	...	5	...	23	...	44	...	78
On Licence from Institutions	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	4	...	5
Under Guardianship	...	—	...	—	...	6	...	1	...	7
On Licence from Guardianship	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
In “ Places of Safety ”	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

The number of defectives “under statutory supervision” at the end of the year was 106, comprising 61 males and 45 females.

There was at the end of the year no known “subject to be dealt with” defectives in the County for whom the Council might later become liable.

Cases notified to the Council by Local Education Authorities during the year numbered 3 (2 males and 1 female), and of these, 1 was placed under statutory supervision, and 2 were recorded as “died, or left the area.”

The question of providing accommodation for mental defectives has presented many difficulties, and much of the present available accommodation cannot be described as entirely suitable for this purpose.

It is hoped that this question will receive careful consideration in post-war development schemes.

Section L.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

All sections of the Civil Defence Casualty Services continue to function satisfactorily during the year. Happily they were not called upon to operate on account of enemy action, but training combined with "exercises" was continued, so as to maintain the interest of the personnel and their preparedness to deal with any emergency.

